

REMARKS

The Official Action dated September 21, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claim 2 has been cancelled, claims 1, 3-6 and 11 have been amended and new claims 12-23 have been added in order to better define that which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-23 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 5 of the Office Action that claims 2-6, 8 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, each of independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the limitation previously set forth in dependent claim 2. Furthermore, claims 4 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form and are thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

With reference now to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 7 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takeyama et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Takeyama et al. neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicant's claimed invention.

Specifically, as noted hereinabove, each of independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the limitation that the driving capabilities of the selection signal generator circuits are larger in proportion to the distances from the control circuit to the memory blocks as was previously recited in dependent claim 2. Accordingly, in that the subject matter of previous dependent claim 2 has been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 1 and 11 are now in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, further discussion with respect to the merits of the

rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 as well as dependent claim 7 as being anticipated by Takeyama et al. is no longer believed to be warranted.

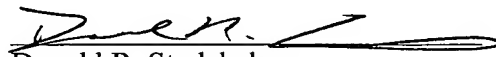
With reference now to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeyama et al. Again, in that claim 10 is indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1 and includes all the limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that this claim likewise distinguishes over the prior art of record and is in proper condition for allowance.

With respect to new dependent claims 12-23, each of these claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon an independent claim, the subject matter of which has been indicated by the Examiner is being allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are likewise now in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1 and 3-23 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a further conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


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